

THE IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN  
IMMIGRANT GROUPS IN KANSAS

by

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The study of the foreign immigrants in Kansas was given attention as early as 1888. On January 17, of that year, W. H. Carruth read a paper at the annual meeting of the Kansas State Historical Society. In it he said "another and more important matter which I command to the attention of this society is the charting of the foreign settlements in the state".<sup>1</sup> This thesis is intended to be a contribution to the realization of that commendation.

Many other contributions have been made since that time. Some of the foreign groups have produced a scholar who has been interested in writing the history of his national group in Kansas. These accounts have frequently been written in the native language of the people, for they wrote for the pleasure of their own group. Some scholars wrote in English. For example, the Reverend Alfred Bergin of Lindsborg published articles, both in Swedish and English. Occasionally articles in the native tongue have been translated into English by a subsequent scholar who did his own writing in English. For example, Jacob C. Ruppenthal of Russell translated earlier articles by other authors, from the German, and made his own contributions in English.

The national groups in Kansas have frequently celebrated

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<sup>1</sup> W. H. Carruth, "Origin of Kansas Names-Foreign Settlements", Kansas Historical Collections, 9:257 (Topeka, 1890).

the anniversary of their immigration here. The celebrations have been usually accompanied by the publication of a history of the group. These have proved contributions of worth.

A few research students have chosen to work in this field. The studies with which a familiarity was gained were histories of a local community or, at most, a county. One study, at least has been made which dealt with native as well as foreign immigration into all of Kansas.<sup>2</sup> Other contributions have been made by journalists, linguists, and speakers.

Much value is to be gained from the identification of the foreign immigrant groups in Kansas. Its ultimate accomplishment would be an analysis of the cultural heritage of the people of Kansas. In this study the identity of the foreign immigrants has been determined only on the basis of their country of origin. This approach may be utilized in two ways. It may serve as the initial step in an analysis of the entire state's cultural heritage or as a thorough cultural study which might be conducted for any one of the national groups identified.

A study of the geographical areas of foreign settlement revealed three quite obvious modes of settlement. First, many of the immigrants came in groups and formed colonies. Secondly, many of the immigrants came individually or by the family. And, thirdly, those localities in which a specific nationality had settled tended to attract others of that same nationality. Emigration Societies were used frequently to do this. The third method was applicable either to the incoming groups or individuals. The

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<sup>2</sup> Nell B. Waldron, "Colonization in Kansas from 1861-1890", Ph. D. Thesis MS in Northwestern University Library (Evanston, 1932).

original settlements which were located within the state gained a two-fold importance. They either flourished and abounded, or they declined and dispersed. The distinction would be a quantitative one. The quality of the national groups would be present and as such would be a factor in the cultural heritage of the state.

The communities of Kansas have been of two general types. One type has been the community that has been limited to one foreign group, and which has or has not retained its native culture. The other, of course, was the community that was composed of various foreign groups, but which has manifested the American culture. Denial W. Wilder described the officers of the city of Leavenworth during the early eighties in this manner. The mayor was German, the city marshal was Scotch, the weight master was Irish, the street commissioner was Danish, the city physician was French; and the council was composed of an Englishman, an Alsatian, an Irishman, and a Prussian.<sup>3</sup> It has been a common thesis that Kansas has been great because it has been cosmopolitan.

John H. Whetstone actually applied this thesis to a colony. He bought 15,000 acres of land in 1869 in the central part of Apawnee township in Franklin County. In 1870 he plotted a town and divided the land into small farms. The town, Pampa, and the surrounding country have been the result of his venture. Every state in the Union and many countries were represented in its population.<sup>4</sup>

Thousands of immigrants were attracted to Kansas. The general causes for European emigration will not be considered, but some

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<sup>3</sup> Denial W. Wilder, The Annals of Kansas (Topeka, 1886), 22.

<sup>4</sup> Waldron, op. cit., 119.

mention must be made, however, of the settlement appeal that Kansas had. Kansas had gained the name in Europe of "the home of the free". This name, coupled with the attractive offer of new land, initiated interest in Kansas.

Until 1873, the State Legislature had not created a governmental agency to handle immigration. The State Board of Agriculture accepted responsibility for it. The Third Annual Report of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture stated "...in the entire absence of an immigration bureau...to meet this exigency, it was decided to make the statistical and immigration interests the leading feature in the work of the year, 1874".<sup>5</sup>

The publication of pamphlets was a favorite means of advertisement. Under the special direction of the Legislature of 1884, the State Board of Agriculture published and distributed 65,000 pamphlets. They sent 20,000 to Germany, 15,000 to Sweden, 10,000 to Denmark, and 20,000 to England.<sup>6</sup> These pamphlets made Kansas the South Sea Island of the 1880's.

The greater part of real estate agent work in Europe was done by the railroads. When the early railroads were first built across Kansas, there were few people living in the western part of the state. Population was necessary to the prosperity of the railroad companies.

The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe and the Kansas branch of the Union Pacific railroads were the companies concerned. They gave much attention to the matter of increasing the settlements

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<sup>5</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Annual Report 1873 (Topeka, 1874), 9.

<sup>6</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Biennial Report 1885-1886 (Topeka, 1887), 47.

along the lines. In 1872 the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad had completed a line to the Colorado boundary. Through government gifts of alternate sections of land, they had 3,000,000 acres to sell.<sup>7</sup> The Lawrence Journal of December 16, 1871, stated "In the last two years the Kansas Pacific Railway has sold 700,000 acres of land for \$2,000,000".<sup>8</sup>

The railroads sent land agents to Europe. They invited people of prominence to join excursions through Kansas. And they filled the newspapers with description of the great West. Kansas was widely and favorably advertised. Interest was everywhere aroused and many people were attracted to the state.<sup>9</sup> It was the railroad agents that met the ships and guided immigrants to their land. They provided housing facilities, though meager, for them while they arrived at a decision as to what land to buy. In Kansas, Topeka was the leading stopping place until land was purchased. In the western part of the state, Hays later served the same purpose.

Another function of the railroad companies was that they served as a source of employment for many of the immigrants. They worked for the railroad companies to earn money to buy land, or to support themselves until the land did.

The railroad had competition from the government, so the price of their land was reasonable. There was as late as 1885 plenty of good government land available in Kansas. From 1885 to 1890, 6,000,000 of the 7,200,000 acres of land available were

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7 C. B. Schmidt, "Reminiscences of Foreign Immigration Work for Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 9:487 (Topeka, 1940).

8 Wilder, op. cit., 540.

9 Anna E. Arnold, A History of Kansas (Topeka, 1914), 178.



homesteaded, pre-empted, or timber claimed in Clark, Finney, Ford, Gray, Grant, Haskell, Kearny, Meade, Morton, Seward, Stevens, and Stanton counties.<sup>10</sup>

The immigrants, if in groups, usually preferred to establish a village and farm the adjoining land, as was the European practice. The railroad companies owned land adjoining the right-of-way, and such land was not so suitable for village settlements. However, railroad land was soon purchased by the new settler.

Certain sections of Kansas have been more densely populated by the foreign immigrants than others. The number of foreigners per square mile in 1885 in each county of Kansas is shown in Plate II, page 13. In those counties in which wide variance occurred between the numbers it was due to uneven distribution among the townships. It has been impossible to learn the story of all the foreign immigrants in Kansas. For example, Atchison, Leavenworth, and Shawnee counties are shown with more than seven foreigners per square mile and no information is included in this study which would identify them all. These counties were settled before the foreign immigration influx direct from Europe occurred. The foreigners in these counties were those who came indirectly to the state from Europe and entered shortly before or after statehood came to Kansas.

Three sections of the state led in the proportion of foreign stock: the Smoky Hill River district from Ellsworth to Wakeeney, the Mennonite district in Marion, McPherson, Harvey and Reno counties, and the Pittsburg district in the mining counties of

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10 J. S. Painter, "Southwest Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 4:283 (Topeka, 1890).

Crawford and Cherokee. In these districts the number of foreign born was twice the average for the state as a whole.<sup>11</sup>

The districts outlined above were settled by Europeans. There were American immigrants in Kansas, too. They came from Canada and Mexico.

Both French-Canadians and German-Canadians came into Kansas. Cloud County has been known as the French-Canadian county of Kansas. These Canadians came from Illinois where they had settled after leaving Canada.<sup>12</sup> Their forefathers had come to Canada before the American Revolution. In 1881, there were seven hundred French-speaking voters in the county.<sup>13</sup> French-Canadians settled in Rooks County near Damar, from 1870 to 1890.<sup>14</sup> There were a few scattered Canadians in Barton County. The town, Canada, in Marion County was the center of a French-Canadian community. Some were there previous to 1873 and more came from 1873 to 1880.<sup>15</sup> By 1892 there were two hundred French-Canadians in Mill Creek, Union and St. Mary townships in Pottowatomie County.<sup>16</sup> About 1880 settlements were made in Graham County, in Wild Horse and Morelan townships.<sup>17</sup>

The German-Canadians settled farther west. In 1886 a colony reached Garden City in Finney County.<sup>18</sup> From 1873 to 1883, 18,000 German-Russians emigrated to America. Eight thousand went to Manitoba, Canada, and 10,000 came to Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota,

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11 Kansas City Times, August 24, 1946.

12 Kansas City Star, August 31, 1911.

13 Champion, July 28, 1881.

14 Kansas City Star, August 24, 1911.

15 Marion Record, September 23, 1937.

16 W. H. Carruth, "Foreign Settlements", Kansas University Quarterly, 1:80 (Lawrence, October, 1892).

17 Ibid., 76.

18 Waldron, op. cit., 95.

and Dakote.<sup>19</sup> Some of those that went to Canada later came into Kansas. Likewise, some of the German-Russians that had settled first in Kansas, had moved to Canada to take advantage of the new land. Some of them returned to Kansas.<sup>20</sup>

The Mexicans came into Kansas for labor purposes. The mines and railroads were responsible for their coming. Thirty per cent of the Mexicans have located in Kansas City, Topeka, and Wichita.<sup>21</sup> In those cities they have been employed by the railroad companies. Two other large colonies were made in central Kansas at Kenopolis in Ellsworth County and Lyons in Rice County. In southern Kansas a settlement was made at Coffeyville in Montgomery County.<sup>22</sup>

A definite aid in the identification of the foreign immigrants in Kansas was found in the United States Census. The number of foreign born according to country of origin in each county is given in the census of 1880.<sup>23</sup> However, it did not distinguish the foreigners in any great detail. Nearly all of the Russian, Swiss, Polish, and Austrian listed were German.<sup>24</sup> Only Swedes were listed from northern Europe, and the English and Welsh were listed together. The detailed identification of the foreigners was found to be more valuable in a cultural study.

The proportion of the total foreign born population in Kan-

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19 Melvin Gingerich, "The Reactions of the Russian Mennonites to the Trans-Mississippi West in the Seventies", MS in possession of the author (Goshen, Indiana, 1947), 1.

20 Grayce E. Goertz, Personal Interview at Manhattan, Kansas, April 30, 1948.

21 Kansas City Times, August 24, 1948.

22 Allen Hoffman, Personal Interview at Manhattan, Kansas, April 13, 1948.

23 The Population of the United States in 1880, Tenth Census. (Washington, 1883), 492-93.

24 Jacob C. Ruppenthal, "The German Element in Central Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 13:516 (Topeka, 1914).

as in 1855 and 1885 by country of origin is found in Figs. 1 and 2, pages 14 and 15. These graphs took into consideration only those who came directly to Kansas from their country of origin. Those who came indirectly from their country of origin came in largest numbers from Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Indiana.

The difference in the number for each group that came directly and indirectly is illustrated in these groups: 19,000 English and Welsh came indirectly, 7,000 directly; 40,000 Germans came indirectly, 17,000 directly; 18,000 Scandinavians came indirectly, 10,000 directly; 40,000 German-Russians came indirectly, 9,000 directly; 15,000 Irish came indirectly, 3,000 directly; no French came indirectly, 623 directly.<sup>25</sup>

The foreign settlements identified in this study are shown on the map, Plate I, page 11. This identification has been made irrespective of the quantity present, and is intended to show the foreign elements which are found in each county. Detailed information about each group, in which is given the date of settlement, place of settlement, and number in the settlement in so far as it was available is found in the context of the thesis.

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25 Kansas Board of Agriculture, Biennial Report 1885-86 (Topeka, 1887), 47.

# EXPLANATION OF PLATE I

Identification of foreign settlements in Kansas.

The letters indicate that a settlement of the country of origin represented has been made in that county. The foreign groups are represented by the letters following their names.

Austrian	A	English	E	Hungarian	HU	Polish	P
Bohemian	B	French	F	Irish	IR	Swedish	S
Bulgarian	BU	German	G	Italian	I	Scotch	SC
Canadian	C	German-Russian	GR	Mexican	M	Swiss	SW
Danish	D	Hollander	H	Norwegian	N	Welsh	W

Yugo-slavian SL



EXPLANATION OF PLATE II

Density of foreign population in Kansas in 1885.<sup>26</sup>

Those in which the number seven appears had more than seven foreigners per square mile. Those in which no numbers appear had less than one foreigner per square mile.

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 52.

[illegible]



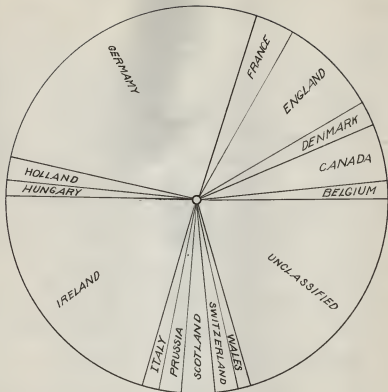


Fig. 1. The proportion of total foreign born population in Kansas in 1855 who came directly from country of origin.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> Daniel W. Wilder, "Where Kansans Were Born", Kansas Historical Collections, 9:508 (Topeka, 1906).



Fig. 2. The proportion of total foreign born population in Kansas in 1885 who came directly from country of origin.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Kansas State Board of Agriculture, Biennial Report 1885-86 (Topeka, 1887), 47.

## CHAPTER II

### IMMIGRANTS FROM NORTHERN EUROPE

"The great famine in Sweden has been causing tens of thousands to immigrate to this country...", so read the entry for December 31, 1869, in Wilder's Annals of Kansas. This condition of famine of which he spoke prevailed throughout Northern Europe. It was the cause of the emigration in 1868 from Northern Europe to America.

The thousands that came to Kansas in 1868 and the years following were not the first Scandinavians in Kansas. Kansas held the same appeal for them that it held for all Europeans. The areas in which they settled indicated that they tended to be attracted to localities in which Scandinavians had previously settled.

Three agencies directed Scandinavian settlement in Kansas: The First Swedish Agricultural Company of Chicago, The Galesburg Colonization Company of Galesburg, Illinois, and The Scandinavian Agricultural Society. These agencies were organized for the purpose of choosing and settling land. Once the members had accomplished that for themselves they dissolved the company.

The immigrants from Northern Europe came from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. Most of them were from Sweden. The Swedes were of the Lutheran faith and much of the history of their settlement in Kansas was learned from church histories. The Swedes settled primarily in or near four river valleys: the Smoky Hill River Valley, the Neosho River Valley, the Republican River Valley

and the Blue River Valley. There were some settlements made outside these areas.

The first Swedish settler to enter the Blue River Valley came from Galesburg, Illinois, in 1855. He settled at Mariedehl in Pottawatomie County. He was joined in 1856 by his brother. In 1858 and 1859 Swedes arrived directly from Sweden in this locality.<sup>1</sup>

The first Swede entered Marshall County in 1858 and settled in Hook township. In 1870 others came to Lincoln township. There were two settlements of Swedes made in Marshall County. One was between Axtell and Frankfort in Lincoln, Hook, and Noble townships. The other was south of Waterville in Cottage Hill township.<sup>2</sup>

The Scandinevien Agricultural Society in 1869 promoted settlement of 7,083 acres of land in Riley, Pottawatomie, Cloud, and Republic counties.<sup>3</sup> This movement brought the heavy population of Swedes to these counties. In Pottawatomie County, but not on the Blue, was a settlement at St. Marys around which grew a Swedish locality.<sup>4</sup> In Riley County the Swedish settlements were made in Jackson, Swede Creek, and Sherman townships.<sup>5</sup> The Swedish settlement in the Blue River Valley extended north along the Big Blue through Riley, Pottawatomie, and Marshall counties.

The first Swedes to settle in the Smoky Hill River Valley came directly from Sweden. A Swede from Stockholm, Sweden, settled in Dickinson County at Enterprise in 1858<sup>6</sup> and one hundred Swedes came to Center and Heys townships in Dickinson county in

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1 The Reverend Alfred Bergin, "Swedish Settlements in Central Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 11:19 (Topeka, 1910).

2 E. E. Porter, History of Marshall County (Indianapolis, 1917), 216.

3 Bergin, op. cit., 35.

4 Ibid., 34.

5 W. H. Cerruth, op. cit., 80.

6 Bergin, op. cit., 20.

1860.<sup>7</sup> A Swede from Butterna, Sweden, settled south of Salina in 1863<sup>8</sup> and in 1866 the quarter was claimed which in 1869 became the site of Lindsborg. A few came to the Lindsborg area in 1867.<sup>9</sup>

The First Swedish Agricultural Company was formed in 1868. It was made up of one hundred members, each of whom was to have 160 acres of land.<sup>10</sup> They bought 16,000 acres of land in the southern part of Saline County and the northern part of McPherson County from the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company. They planned to homestead the intervening government land.<sup>11</sup> The contract between the Kansas Pacific Railroad Company and The First Swedish Agricultural Company called for \$5,925.97 as a down payment and annual payments from 1869 through 1873. If the payments were not made the land and the improvements would revert to the railroad company.<sup>12</sup> In this year The Galeburg Colonization Company arranged the settlement of twenty-two sections northwest, west, and southwest of the land previously bought by The First Swedish Agricultural Company.<sup>13</sup> To facilitate the settlement of this area the railroad offered rates for immigrants of \$10.50 from Chicago to Kansas City and less than half-fare from Kansas City to the West. Thousands came and purchased land in Jewell and Cloud counties in the Republican River Valley, and in Mitchell, Ottawa, Lincoln, Saline, and McPherson counties in the Smoky Hill River Valley.<sup>14</sup>

Two hundred and fifty persons from Sweden arrived in Salina

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7 Carruth, op. cit., 75.

8 Bergin, op. cit., 20.

9 Ibid., 21.

10 Ibid., 22.

11 Ibid., 23.

12 Ibid., 27, 28, 29.

13 Ibid., 30.

14 Ibid., 22.

to settle in 1869 under the auspices of The First Swedish Agricultural Company.<sup>15</sup> In 1868 and 1869 there were several prominent Swedish localities established. Salemsborg was established in Saline County in 1868; Assaria was an outgrowth of Salemsborg. Falun and Smolan were established in that year in Saline County, and also Fremont and Marquette in McPherson County.<sup>16</sup>

The Swedish Colonization Company was organized at Lindsborg July 11, 1887. Its aim was to locate Lutheran Swedes on the plains of the West. This company promoted settlements in Wallace, Logan, Greeley, Sherman, and Thomas counties. From 1887 to June 1888, 50,000 acres of land were sold to these colonists. Government land was also obtained.<sup>17</sup> Sharon Springs in Wallace County and Page City in Logan County have become centers of Swedish localities resulting from this work.<sup>18</sup> From 1888 to 1892, three hundred Swedes settled in the southwest corner of Wallace County.<sup>19</sup> In Greeley County the Swedes settled in the northwest part of the county.<sup>20</sup> Gove County, which was located on the western end of the Smoky Hill River, received Swedish settlers in 1886.<sup>21</sup> They settled then and later in Lewis, Jerome, the south part of Grinnell, and the southwest part of Gove townships.<sup>22</sup>

The Swedes began coming into the Neosho River Valley in the 1860's and settled much of southeast Kansas.<sup>23</sup> The first Swedes

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15 Ibid., 23.

16 Ibid., 31.

17 Ibid., 32.

18 Ibid., 33.

19 Carruth, op. cit., 82.

20 Ibid., 76.

21 W. F. Harrington, History of Gove County, Kansas (Gove City, 1930), a pamphlet.

22 Carruth, op. cit., 76.

23 C. A. Swensson, "The Swedes in Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 4:287 (Topeka, 1890).

came into Allen County of that valley in 1868. They settled on Big Creek, one mile north of the Neosho County line, in the south-east part of the county. By 1870, others had joined the colony.<sup>24</sup> Iola and Savonburg in Allen County were settled predominantly by Swedish people.<sup>25</sup>

Swede Center in Neosho County was settled in 1868. Others came from Sweden in response to letters from settlers in this locality in 1869.<sup>26</sup> The settlement spread into the northwest part of Tioga and the eastern part of Big Creek townships.<sup>27</sup> Chanute has become a leading Swedish community in this county.<sup>28</sup>

A community known as Stotler was established in the valley drained by Salt Creek in northeast Lyon County.<sup>29</sup> The first Swede settled on Salt Creek in 1869. He was followed four years later by two more families and in 1874 several more came.<sup>30</sup> In that year a committee came from Princeton, Illinois, into a neighboring county to investigate the region of Osage City in Osage County. As a result settlers came into that area. They worked in the mines at Osage City or for the Santa Fe Railroad Company. Seven hundred Swedes entered and settled Grant township in 1871 in that county.<sup>31</sup> West of Osage County in Lyon County there were Scandinavians near Olpe in Center township and some of these were Swedes.<sup>32</sup>

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24 Carl E. Tyler, "The History of the Founding and Growth of the Swedish Settlement in Allen County", Master's Thesis MS in the Pittsburg State Teachers College Library (Pittsburg, 1948), 1.

25 Bergin, op. cit., 34.

26 P. Lovene, History of the Swedish Baptist Churches of Kansas and Missouri, 1868-1927, 9.

27 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

28 Bergin, op. cit., 34.

29 Marie A. Olson, "Swedish Settlement at Stotler", Kansas Historical Collections, 21:155 (Topeka, 1935).

30 Ibid., 157.

31 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

32 Ibid., 77.

There were several other Swedish settlements in southeast Kansas. A colony of Swedes located on the Walnut River on De Racken Creek in Butler County in 1858.<sup>33</sup> A settlement was made at Burdick in Morris County and Merion Hill in the Swedish community near Dwight was settled in 1876.<sup>34</sup> The Swedish localities in general in Morris County were Diamond Valley, the west part of Creak, and the north part of Parker townships.<sup>35</sup> A few Swedes returning from the West from work on the railroad took out claims in Merion County in 1866.<sup>36</sup> The Swedes settled the Vilas locality in Wilson County;<sup>37</sup> Colfax township in that county has had Swedes since 1870.<sup>38</sup> Three of the border counties had Swedish settlements. Swedes entered Chatauque County in 1870;<sup>39</sup> they were present though scattered in Cowley County.<sup>40</sup> They entered Valley and Canade townships in Labette County.<sup>41</sup>

The Swedish settlements in the Republican River Valley were made in Cloud, Republic, Jewell, Clay, Rawlins, Decatur, Phillips, and Cheyenne counties. In 1867 some Swedes purchased land in Cloud County.<sup>42</sup> The Swedish Agricultural Society purchased in the same year 120 sections of public land which extended up and down the Republican River in Republic and Jewell counties.<sup>43</sup> Fifteen citizens located near Scandia in Republic County in 1868.

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33 V. P. Mooney, History of Butler County (Lawrence, 1916), 301.

34 Bargin, op. cit., 53.

35 Carruth, op. cit., 77.

36 Waldron, op. cit., 25.

37 Bargin, op. cit., 53.

38 Carruth, op. cit., 82.

39 Ibid., 74.

40 Ibid., 75.

41 Ibid., 77.

42 Bargin, op. cit., 20.

43 Ida L. Smith, "National Group Settlements", The Aeraid, 7:107 (Hays, 1936).



From 1869 to 1871 this settlement grew<sup>44</sup> and finally extended over the four counties--Clay, Cloud, Republic, and Jewell--along the Republican River and White Rock Creek.<sup>45</sup> Reference was previously made to the 7,083 acres of land purchased in 1869 by The Scandinavian Agricultural Society in Cloud, Republic, Riley, and Pottawatomie counties.<sup>46</sup> Swedish settlements in Jewell County spread from White Rock Creek throughout Sinclair, Allen, Erving, and Esbon townships.<sup>47</sup> Some church histories disclosed settlement history and from such a source it was learned that the Swedish Evangelical Amena Church was organized in 1873 in Beaver township of Republic County.<sup>48</sup> The Swedesburg Lutheran Church at Clay Center in Clay County was organized in April 9, 1871.<sup>49</sup> Both of these church organizations would indicate the presence of Swedish settlers.

The Republican River Valley in the northwestern part of Kansas attracted settlers as well as did the portion of the valley that was in the north central part of the state. Swedes settled in the eastern part of Rawlins, a north border county; Phillips, east of Rawlins, had Swedes in Crystal township.<sup>50</sup> They settled Oberlin township of Decatur County,<sup>51</sup> and 120 reached Chayenne County in 1886.<sup>52</sup>

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44 Bergin, op. cit., 34.

45 M. Winsor and J. A. Scarbrough, "History of Jewell County, Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 27:399 (Topeka, 1928).

46 See page 17.

47 Carruth, op. cit., 77.

48 I. O. Savage, A History of Republic County, Kansas (Topeka, 1883), 78.

49 "Kansas History in the Press", Kansas Historical Collections 22:425 (Topeka, 1936).

50 Carruth, op. cit., 80.

51 Ibid., 78.

52 Ibid., 74.

As was previously mentioned there were Swedish settlements made outside the river valley settlements thus far outlined. The Swedes entered the western part of Garfield and the northern part of Walnut townships in Pawnee County in 1877 and eventually there were about five hundred in all.<sup>53</sup> Garfield, the town, was later located in 1879.<sup>54</sup> The Swedes settled in Reno County in about 1869 and the leading localities were Hutchinson and Nickerson.<sup>55</sup> There were Swedish settlements made in Kaw, Newbury, Mill, Farmer, Alma, and Washington townships of Wabaunsee County.<sup>56</sup> Sedgwick County had Swedes settled particularly in the rural area.<sup>57</sup> Swedish settlements in Edwards County were made in Kinsley, Jackson, and Frenon townships.<sup>58</sup> In Elk County they chose Painter and Hood townships and in Hodgeman County there was a Swedish locality in the northwest corner of Marens township.<sup>59</sup> Topeka in Shawnee County and Kansas City in Wyandotte County both received many Swedes.<sup>60</sup> All of the Swedish settlements mentioned may be located on the map, Plate I, page 11.

The Danes were another group from Northern Europe that emigrated to Kansas. The Danish immigration began in the 1850's. By 1870 some had drifted into every county in the state. The Danes came from the Danish islands and Jutland.<sup>61</sup> The first Danish settlers were probably Mormons, many of whom had apostated en route

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<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 79.

<sup>54</sup> Bergin, op. cit., 33.

<sup>55</sup> Idem.

<sup>56</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 82.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid., 81.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid., 75.

<sup>59</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 77.

<sup>60</sup> Bergin, op. cit., 34.

<sup>61</sup> Thomas P. Christensen, "The Danish Settlements in Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 7:300 (Topeka, 1928).

to Utah during the 1850's.<sup>62</sup> The first Dane entered Marshall County in 1855 near Merysville. He had come from California where he had prospected for gold. In 1869 five Danes came to Marshall County from Schleswig-Holstein to avoid joining the Prussian colors after 1864.<sup>63</sup> They settled in Walnut township. In 1874 more Danes arrived there.<sup>64</sup>

Danes located in Cloud County in 1869 near Jemestown. The most characteristic Danish community in Kansas was made at Denmark in Lincoln County, in 1869. In the early 1880's Danish settlers were attracted to the Lincoln settlement; Grant, Merion, Orange, Battle Creek, and Vesper townships received Danish settlers.<sup>65</sup>

A small group of Danes collected at Lyndon in Osage County in 1869.<sup>66</sup> From 1873 to 1880 about 650 Danes settled in Allen County in Grove and Elmore townships.<sup>67</sup> The membership list of the Friends Home Church in the Swedish settlement of southeast Allen County included in 1872, four Danes.<sup>68</sup> Odense, a country school district and post office in Neosho County, received its name from the seaport and cathedral city on the Odense River on North Funen Island, Denmark. Elmore in Allen County was also named for a Danish seaport.<sup>69</sup> The north border counties received several Danish settlements primarily in Phillips County in Crystal township.<sup>70</sup> In the northeast part of Kansas they settled in Jeck-

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62 Ibid., 301.

63 Porter, op. cit., 216.

64 Weldron, op. cit., 21.

65 Christensen, op. cit., 301.

66 Topeka Journal, October 12, 1916.

67 Carruth, op. cit., 73.

68 Tyler, op. cit., 12.

69 Ibid., 20.

70 Carruth, op. cit., 80.

son County in Watawase and Whiting townships.<sup>71</sup> In central Kansas they settled in Ottawa County in Buckeye township.<sup>72</sup> A group of Socialist Danes sought to establish a Socialist Colony near Hays in Ellis County in 1887. However, it was not successful.<sup>73</sup>

The Norwegians were among the very earliest foreign born settlers in Kansas. A Norwegian was the first foreign born settler in Gove County.<sup>74</sup> In 1857 and 1858 about seventy Norwegians came into Doniphan County. They settled around East Norway which has been renamed Moray. There were many Germans and Danes already there.<sup>75</sup> The Norwegians came in great numbers after the previously mentioned European famine, during the years 1868 and 1869 and later. They settled in Sibley and Lincoln townships of Cloud County and were also found in Cley, Jewell, Brown, and Republic counties.<sup>76</sup> Norway in Republic County and Everest in Brown County were prominent localities.<sup>77</sup> Along the southern border of Kansas in Labette County, Norwegians settled in Valley and Canada townships.<sup>78</sup> In 1870 they settled in Chatauque County.<sup>79</sup> About two hundred settled in the southern part of Salam township, Greenwood County.<sup>80</sup>

The Swedes, the Danes, and the Norwegians entered many of the counties of Kansas. The counties in which settlements were made by these people are located in the map, Plate I, page 11.

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71 Ibid., 77.

72 Ibid., 79.

73 Waldron, op. cit., 23.

74 Harrington, op. cit., n. p.

75 Atchison Daily Globe, June 30, 1907.

76 Waldron, op. cit., 20.

77 Kansas City Star, August 31, 1911.

78 Carruth, op. cit., 77.

79 Ibid., 74.

80 Ibid., 76.

CHAPTER III  
IMMIGRANTS FROM WESTERN EUROPE

The foreign born that came to settle in Kansas from Western Europe emigrated from Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Holland, France, and Switzerland. It is indicated on page 11, Plate I, that many settlements were made in Kansas by these foreign groups.

The Irish came to Kansas in families or individually. They settled in groups, however, to a considerable extent. A settlement was made in Geary County in 1855. One year later fifteen hundred Irish settled in Jackson, Jefferson, and Liberty townships of that county.<sup>1</sup> In the following year some Irish families settled in Anderson County southeast of Geary County on Ienthe Creek.<sup>2</sup> Twelve families came first and seven more soon came.<sup>3</sup> The settlement was made in Reader township to which they came in increasing numbers from 1857 to 1867. Two-thirds of the community was located in Anderson County, but it extended into the adjoining counties of Coffey and Franklin.<sup>4</sup> The Irish began to settle Marshall County about the same time as they did Anderson County. From 1857 to 1861, nineteen families settled on Irish Creek in that county.<sup>5</sup>

Saline County received some Irish, although there was a question whether the first ones came in 1859 or 1860. The Saline

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<sup>1</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 76.

<sup>2</sup> Garnett Review, December 13, 1934.

<sup>3</sup> Ottawa Herald, June 18, 1936.

<sup>4</sup> Harry Johnson, A History of Anderson County, Kansas (Garnett, 1936), 348.

<sup>5</sup> Porter, op. cit., 231.

Journal quoted A. M. Campbell, who said that an Irishwoman came into the Solomon Valley in May of 1859.<sup>6</sup> North of Salina County, in Ottawa County, the Irish arrived in 1885 and settled in the south part of Chapman township.<sup>7</sup> South of Salina County, in Marion County, the Irish settled in Clark township in 1873.<sup>8</sup> Several hundred settled north of Marion County in Dickinson County in the south part of Banner township.<sup>9</sup>

Sevanty-eight Irish families came to the northern part of Pottawatomie County in 1878.<sup>10</sup> Two thousand occupied Clear Creek, Emmett, St. Mary, and the border of St. Clere townships by 1892.<sup>11</sup> At least thirty families of Irish had settled Solomon, Lyon, Meredith, and the southeastern corner of Grant townships in Cloud County, by 1892.<sup>12</sup> Irish settlements had been made in Barnes, the southern part of Sherman, and Kimco townships in Washington County by that same year.<sup>13</sup> They were in Clear Creek and the northeastern corner of Neuchatel townships in Nemaha County.<sup>14</sup> In Jackson County they were in Washington township.<sup>15</sup> A settlement of Irish located about midway in Wyandotte township in Wyandotte County.<sup>16</sup> These counties mentioned were in the northern and northeastern parts of Kansas. Settlements were also made by the Irish in the southeastern part of Kansas. In Osage County they settled near Soranton township.<sup>17</sup> Miami County had about two hundred in Osage town-

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6 Salina Journal, July 18, 1933.

7 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

8 Topeka Journal, March 18, 1939.

9 Carruth, op. cit., 75.

10 Topeka Journal, March 18, 1939.

11 Carruth, op. cit., 80.

12 Ibid., 75.

13 Ibid., 82.

14 Ibid., 79.

15 Ibid., 77.

16 Ibid., 82.

17 Ibid., 79.

ship.<sup>18</sup> Some Irish settlers went to Grant township of Crawford County, Falls township of Elk County,<sup>19</sup> and on Prairie Creek of Sumner County.<sup>20</sup>

The Irish settled in small numbers in the central and western parts of Kansas. The Irish settled in Albion township northwest of Hoisington in Barton County.<sup>21</sup> They settled in Ellsworth County near Ellsworth and Holyrood in the 1880's. The Irish settled Atwood in Rawlins County in 1879 and Tully, south of Atwood, was established in the same year. In 1885 the first settlers to arrive in Bird City, Cheyenne County, were Irish.<sup>22</sup>

The second group that came to Kansas from Western Europe was the Scotch. The Lawrence Journal of December 16, 1871, stated that in the past two years the Kansas Pacific Railroad had sold 47, 000 acres of land in Dickinson County to the Scotch. This Scotch settlement was made from ten to fifteen miles south and southwest of Abilene in Dickinson County.<sup>23</sup> The Scotch colonies in Republic County were known as the Excelsior Colonies. The first Excelsior Colony of about sixty people settled on White Rose Creek in Liberty township in May 1869.<sup>24</sup> The Second Excelsior Colony made up of two hundred families settled in Belleville and Scandia townships.<sup>25</sup> In 1883 there were fifteen Scotamen in the town of Scandia alone.<sup>26</sup> Scotch settlements were made in

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18 Ibid., 78.

19 Ibid., 75.

20 Topeka Journal, March 18, 1939.

21 Hoover, op. cit. 13.

22 Waldron, op. cit., 118.

23 C. H. Goss, Personal Interview conducted at Enterprise, Kansas, April 25, 1948.

24 Belleville Telescope, May 7, 1936.

25 Smith, op. cit., 109.

26 Savage, op. cit., 70.

the southeastern part of Kansas in Osage County near Scranton.<sup>27</sup> The Scotch reached Marshall County at Waterville in January 5, 1870.<sup>28</sup> The population of Scammon in Cherokee County included a large number of Scotch in 1892.<sup>29</sup>

The settlement in Lyon County was one of the two large Welsh settlements made in Kansas. The Emporia News stated that out of the first migration from Wisconsin in 1857 about one hundred Welsh settled on the south side of the Cottonwood River; in the south part of Breckenridge County, now Lyon County; and in the northern part of Madison County, now in Greenwood County. It further stated that about one hundred families were expected in the spring.<sup>30</sup> Another authority said Welsh arrived in Lyon County in 1857 and continued to do so through the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's. They settled in the Cottonwood and Neosho River Valleys, and on Dry and Coal Creeks.<sup>31</sup> Another authority gave the Welsh date of settlement as 1856 and added Eagle Creek to the localities settled.<sup>32</sup>

The other large settlement was the Riley County settlement which centered at Bala. This Welsh colony had been organized in New York State under the Welsh Land and Emigration Society of America. They bought railroad land and also introduced citizens to the Homestead and Pre-emption land. The first members of the colony arrived in 1870 and settled on Timber Creek. Others

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27 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

28 Waldron, op. cit., 49.

29 Carruth, op. cit., 74.

30 Emporia News, January 21, 1860.

31 Laura M. French, History of Emporia and Lyon County (Emporia, 1929), 187.

32 Jacob Stotler, Annals of Emporia and Lyon County, 1857-1892 (Emporia), a pamphlet.



arrived in the years 1873 and 1876.<sup>33</sup>

Two other counties contained Welsh settlers. One was Osage County at Arvonla, which the Welsh established in 1869.<sup>34</sup> The other was Wyandotte County where there were over two hundred at Rosedale in 1892.<sup>35</sup>

The fourth group from the British Isles was the English. There were English in Kansas as early as 1855. The largest English settlement that became permanent in Kansas was in Clay County. They purchased 32,000 acres of land in that county. The center of the settlement was Wakefield. The settlement was located in 1869 and was named after the Reverend Richard Wake, a prominent promoter.<sup>36</sup> On October 6, 1869, seventy-seven English from south England arrived. In 1870 the second party came from Wales. In this year the stream of immigrants was checked, but in 1870 it was revived considerably by colonists from the Upper Thames Valley in England.<sup>37</sup>

The English settled next to Clay County in Geary County. Three hundred from Sussex settled in Lyon township in 1870.<sup>38</sup> Farther north in Nemaha County the English bought 720 acres in Harrison township. An additional fifty came in 1868 and 1869.<sup>39</sup>

One of the groups that came to Kansas in possession of great wealth was the English that settled in Ellis County. In 1873 an

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33 The Nationalist, June 7, 1876.

34 Waldron, op. cit., 51.

35 Carruth, op. cit., 82.

36 George A. Root, "Ferries in Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 20:260 (Topeka, 1934).

37 W. J. Chapman, "The Wakefield Colony", Kansas Historical Collections, 10:491 (Topeka, 1908).

38 Carruth, op. cit., 76.

39 Waldron, op. cit., 52.

an Englishman, George Grant, acquired 69,000 acres of land in that county.<sup>40</sup> He induced a wealthy class of Englishmen to settle this land. As they were not in need, they had fine cattle, homes, wine, food, and money. The center of the settlement was Victoria, and they built their homes facing Victoria Creek.<sup>41</sup> The colony reached its peak from 1876 to 1878. Victoria City prospered. An important development in the history of the English settlement was that in 1876 the German-Russians bought land north of Grant's property. These people were very much in need.<sup>42</sup> Grant watched his colony as they devoted their time to sports. He also watched the German-Russians as they worked diligently to develop the resources. It was obvious that the latter would swallow the former. After Grant's death, April 26, 1878, the colony experienced increasing difficulties.<sup>43</sup> A gradual exodus from it began and lasted through the 1880's and early 1890's. The German-Russians took over Victoria. The few remaining English moved to Hays City.<sup>44</sup> Even though the colony failed many of the English remained in the state.

An English settlement at Runnymede was, like the Victoria settlement, unsuccessful. In the 1880's an Englishman and an Irishman bought land around Runnymede along the Chikaskia River in the northeastern part of Harper and the southeastern part of Kingman counties. They bought land and sold it to Englishmen. It was known as the Mecca for Englishmen. The venture failed in 1895, however, many of the men remained in the vicinity. Even

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40 Marjorie G. Raish, "Victoria", Fort Hays Kansas State College Studies, Language and Literature Series No. 3 (Fort Hays), II.

41 Ibid., 21.

42 Ibid., 74.

43 Ibid.

44 Ibid., 80.

though it failed it, like the Victoria settlement, did contribute to the heritage of the population of Kansas.

The English also settled in Barton County in central Kansas. They located largely in the vicinity of Great Bend, although they were somewhat scattered.<sup>45</sup>

The groups from continental Western Europe that came to Kansas were the Dutch, French, and the Swiss. The largest influx of Hollanders came from 1870 to 1880. In 1871 the Hollanders settled in the northeastern corner of Osborne County.<sup>46</sup> Oak Creek in the vicinity of the junction of Smith, Jewell, Osborne, and Mitchell counties became a Dutch stream. Cawker City in the northeastern corner of Mitchell County attracted them in large numbers.<sup>47</sup>

A Dutch settlement was made in the south central part of the state in Haven township of Reno County in 1878 at which time about 350 came to settle.<sup>48</sup> Two western counties received the Hollanders, one of which was Gove County which received forty-four in 1878. A telegram dated October 3, 1878, sent from Salina read "Last night there were forty-four Hollanders from Iowa on the train, bound for Gove County". This colony settled principally southwest of Grandfield.<sup>49</sup> In the northwestern part of the state the Hollanders settled in Phillips County. They settled in the eastern part of Prairie View with adjacent portions of Long Island, Dayton, and Beaver townships.<sup>50</sup>

The French have been present in Kansas since they came as

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45 Hoover, op. cit., 13.

46 Waldron, op. cit., 97.

47 Ibid., 98.

48 Carruth, op. cit., 80.

49 Harrington, op. cit., n. p.

50 Carruth, op. cit., 83.

individual fur traders. For example, Alexis Poulet, a leading French merchant, came to Iowa Point, Doniphan County, in 1847.<sup>51</sup> The French came as individuals into all parts of Kansas, but particularly did this apply to northeastern Kansas where they were quite numerous in Doniphan, Leavenworth, and Marshall counties. The sparseness of the French in Kansas may be accounted for in that they left France in great numbers after the Napoleonic Wars. At that time most of Kansas was overrun by hostile Indians which fact was not too conducive to settlement. This would account for the fact that they settled in eastern Kansas for when they came it was the only part of Kansas which was peaceful enough for settlement. Some settled in Shawnee and Douglas counties.<sup>52</sup> Three French families arrived at Topeka and settled on homesteads nearby in 1854 and 1857. They were refugees from the coup d' état of Napoleon III.<sup>53</sup> By 1874 Topeka had about fifty French settlers.<sup>54</sup>

M. E. V. de Bossier promoted the silk industry in Williamsburg township of Franklin County. The French colony that he located was centered at Silkville and extended over 3,000 acres of land.<sup>55</sup> The French located in many of the other counties of southeastern Kansas. In Osage County about two hundred settled in the central part of Superior township.<sup>56</sup> In November, 1884, eighteen French settlers arrived in Humboldt, Allen County, and asked to stay. It was allowed by the German citizens. The colony had increased to eighty-seven by December 4 of that year.<sup>57</sup> In

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<sup>51</sup> Kansas City Star, May 4, 1936.

<sup>52</sup> Wichita Eagle, December 16, 1938.

<sup>53</sup> Topeka Capital, March 6, 1916.

<sup>54</sup> Waldron, op. cit., 79.

<sup>55</sup> L. D. Burch, Kansas As It Is (Chicago, 1878), 49.

<sup>56</sup> Caruth, op. cit., 79.

<sup>57</sup> Waldron, op. cit., 81.

the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's they settled along the creeks in the southern part of Lyon County and in the Reading and Emporia vicinities.<sup>58</sup> A number of French families came to west Chase and east Marion counties in the 1860's and settled on French, Cedar, Bruno, and Martin Creeks, and in the Cottonwood River Valley east of Florence.<sup>59</sup>

By 1892 at least thirty families of French were in each of these places: Grant township in Crawford County;<sup>60</sup> in Weir City and in the mining districts of Cherokee County;<sup>61</sup> in Wichita in Sedgwick County;<sup>62</sup> in Odell and Stohrville townships in Harper County;<sup>63</sup> about midway in Sherman township of Washington County;<sup>64</sup> and in Logan township of Rooks County.<sup>65</sup>

In central and southern Kansas two notable French settlements were made in Ottawa and Harvey counties. In 1868 M. Boissiere bought 4,000 acres of land twenty miles southwest of Ottawa. He prepared the colony for settlement and advertised in France for settlers. At one time there were forty French there. In 1892 he gave his entire estate to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows Home and returned to France.<sup>66</sup>

The other colony was in Harvey County. A French settlement was founded on Turkey Creek in Alta township north of Burrton to which ten families came in 1868. In 1874 the German-Russians came

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58 French, *op. cit.*, 188.

59 John Madden, "The French in Chase County", Chase County Historical Sketches, 1:90 (1940).

60 Carruth, *op. cit.*, 75.

61 *Ibid.*, 74.

62 *Ibid.*, 81.

63 *Ibid.*, 82.

64 *Ibid.*, 80.

65 *Ibid.*, 76.

66 Waldron, *op. cit.*, 74.

in and took over. The French names have been completely replaced by German-Russian ones in this township.<sup>67</sup> There were, in 1892, French in the northern part of Emma township in Harvey County.<sup>68</sup>

The Swiss settlements were made in the eastern part of Kansas. In 1856 a Swiss came to Vermillion in Marshall County, while others came in 1866. In 1868 a few went to Waterville and in 1879 a group settled in Marysville in that county.<sup>69</sup> The Swiss settled most of Neuchatel township in Nemaha County.<sup>70</sup> They settled on Turkey Creek in Dickinson County in 1871 and in the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's the Swiss came to Lyon County.<sup>71</sup> Butler County received Swiss settlers in 1876, at which time they settled in Milton township.<sup>72</sup> Twenty families came to Whitewater in that township in 1881 and ten families arrived from Bern, Switzerland, in 1883.<sup>73</sup> The settlements of the immigrants from Western Europe are located on the map, Plate I, page 11.

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67 Hutchinson Herald, March 1, 1933.

68 Carruth, op. cit., 77.

69 Porter, op. cit., 224.

70 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

71 French, op. cit., 188.

72 J. P. Stratford, Butler County's Eighty Years, 1855-1935 (1934), 40.

73 Waldron, op. cit., 116.

#### CHAPTER IV

##### IMMIGRANTS FROM CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The foreign immigrants into Kansas that came from Central and Eastern Europe were German, German-Russians, Austrian, Bulgarians, Hungarians, Poles, Bohemians, Yugo-slavs, and Italians. These foreign groups have been separated according to the territorial entity from which they came. In the course of history several of these territories have been within the bounds of German control. They could be considered German on that basis. In an identification of the cultural heritage of the foreign born population of Kansas, it would be pertinent to consider this German influence. In this study it has been appropriate to identify the foreign immigrants into Kansas on the basis of their country of origin.

The Germans settled Kansas in greater numbers than any other foreign group. Two groups of Germans have been identified in this paper, the German and the German-Russian. The German group emigrated from Germany to America and thence into Kansas. Most of the ancestors of the Germans in Kansas came from Hanover.<sup>1</sup> Very few came direct from Germany into Kansas. They came into Kansas from other states. They did not come in large colonies, but individually and in small groups.<sup>2</sup>

The German-Russians came from Germany to Kansas by way of Russia. The Germans spent two or three generations in the United

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1 Ruppenthal, op. cit., 527.

2 Ibid., 516.

States before coming into Kansas. Likewise, the German-Russians spent two or three generations in Russia before coming to Kansas. In 1762 Catherine of Russia became interested in developing the Lower Volga River Valley, a wild, semi-arid steppe land. She, therefore, issued a manifesto in which she invited colonization and promised exemption from military service. The offer received a favorable response in Europe after some encouragement. Thousands who were either tired of military service or for religious reasons wished to avoid it, emigrated to Russia. By the middle of the 19th century a measure of prosperity was achieved by the immigrants in Russia. In 1874, a little over a hundred years later, military law declared void the promises of the manifesto of 1762 and all were subjected to military service. The law further allowed for a ten year exemption period in which subjects had the right to emigrate without forfeiture of property. It was during this ten year exemption period that the German-Russians emigrated to Kansas.

This study has not included the religious aspect, but it was a factor in the choice of land in Kansas for these people. Four religious faiths came to Kansas from Russia: Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Lutheran, and Mennonite. The Mennonite and the Roman Catholic groups were the largest. The railroad companies in Kansas contested for these two faiths, but ultimately the Mennonites bought land from the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad Company and the Roman Catholics bought from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. It was this segregation that gave the Russian settlements identified in this paper the religious nature they possessed.

Harvey, Reno, Marion, and nearby counties for the most part \



received the Roman Catholics. There was found some overlapping. Both faiths were found in areas widely separated from these main ones.

By 1880 Germans were in every county of Kansas. One of the localities to which Germans were attracted was known as the Lyon Creek Settlement. The first German party located there at the mouth of Lyon Creek where it emptied into the Smoky Hill at Fort Riley in Geary County. The settlement grew until it extended from Geary County south through Dickinson County into the northeastern corner of Marion County. The settlers traveled via Menhatten, Ogden, and Fort Riley.<sup>3</sup> By 1877 unclaimed land was scarce in the Lyon Creek settlement.<sup>4</sup>

There were German settlements elsewhere in these three counties. Junction City was established in 1851 and there were two German brothers among the first settlers. From 1858 on there were a number of Germans in Junction City.<sup>5</sup> Dickinson County had several localities established which were outgrowths of the Lyon County settlement. Enterprise previously cited as the site of Swedish settlement in 1858, had Germans by 1859. Woodbine was established in 1872. Herrington, also in Dickinson County, was established in 1884.<sup>6</sup> On Turkey Creek in Dickinson County the Germans settled sometime after the Swiss settlement of 1861.<sup>7</sup> In the 1870's they settled Upland Community in the northeastern corner of the county. Shortly after the Germans arrived the Swedes

3 Clare M. Shields, "The Lyon Settlement", Kansas Historical Collections, 14:146 (Topeka, 1916).

4 Ibid., 153.

5 Newspaper clipping, Geary County Clippings, 3:174 Kansas State Historical Library, Topeka.

6 Shields, op. cit., 167.

7 W. J. Becker, "Kansas Historical Notes", Kansas Historical Collections, 27:221 (Topeka, 1941).

came there.<sup>8</sup> Marion County had a German settlement other than the Lyon Creek Settlement, at Peabody. They first arrived there on February 22, 1876.<sup>9</sup>

Several other counties in the southeast contained German settlements. The Germans came to Lyon County in the 1860's, '70's, and '80's. They ranked second in number to the Welsh. They settled primarily on the high prairie land of Centre and Elmendorf townships.<sup>10</sup> Anderson County, two counties east of Lyon had its German settlement at Westphalia in the west central part of the county.<sup>11</sup> The county south of Anderson, Allen, attracted Germans in great numbers at Humboldt. As early as 1857 Germans arrived there. This German colony was organized in Hartford, Connecticut, 1856-57, and within the next two years all of the eight members came to Kansas. They arrived at Lawrence, March 1857. After arriving there the Humboldt Town Company was organized and named in honor of Baron Von Humboldt. More came in May 1857.<sup>12</sup> Two years later Eudora in Douglas County was established by a German Association in Chicago and settled by Germans. They bought 800 acres of land from the Shawnee Indians and named it after Chief Pascal Fish's daughter.<sup>13</sup>

Several counties in northeastern Kansas have localities densely populated by Germans. In 1857-58 the first settlement north of the Wyandotte-Leavenworth County line was in Weimar, a German

<sup>8</sup> Kansas City Star, March 22, 1908.

<sup>9</sup> Marion Record, October 8, 1933.

<sup>10</sup> French, *op. cit.*, 188.

<sup>11</sup> Clipping, Anderson County Clippings, 1:93 Kansas State Historical Library, Topeka.

<sup>12</sup> L. W. Duncan and C. F. Scott, History of Allen and Woodson Counties, Kansas (Topeka, 1901), 91.

<sup>13</sup> George R. Root, "Ferries in Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 19:276 (Topeka, 1933).

community.<sup>14</sup> There were Germans spread through Nemaha, Marshall, and Washington counties.<sup>15</sup> Germans settled Marshall County in early times in Harkimer and Marysville township on Spring, Horsehoe, and Mission Creeks, and also on the Blue River between Marietta and Walnut Creeks.<sup>16</sup> In Pottawatomie County a group of Germans settled north of Wamego in the early '50's.<sup>17</sup> West of Pottawatomie County in Riley County the Germans first settled in 1857. From 1857 to 1862 they settled on Fancy Creek. In 1867 they settled on the Blue River, in 1869 they settled on Swede Creek.<sup>18</sup>

In central Kansas Germans were found in Osborne, Ellsworth, Russell, and Barton counties. The Osborne County German settlements were made in Bloom township.<sup>19</sup> Germans from Pennsylvania settled in Ellsworth County in 1871 and 1878.<sup>20</sup> Two men of German ancestry chose land in Green Garden township for a German Baptist Colony, and Lorraina became the center of it. The original land plot was ten sections and was purchased from the Union Pacific Railroad Company from 1877 to 1883.<sup>21</sup> Germans settled throughout the entire county but were found in greatest numbers north of Ellsworth, the town, in Columbia and Sherman townships. The Germans were strongest in the southeastern part of Barton County where Ellinwood was the center.<sup>22</sup> The Germans located Schoenthal (Pleasantdale) in Barton County in 1876.

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<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 13.

<sup>15</sup> Kansas City Times, August 24, 1946.

<sup>16</sup> Fortar, op. cit., 221.

<sup>17</sup> Topeka State Journal, March 17, 1914.

<sup>18</sup> Nationalist, July 7, 1876.

<sup>19</sup> Farmer, July 22, 1880.

<sup>20</sup> Wilson World, February 5, 1914.

<sup>21</sup> Peters, Velma, unpublished MS in possession of R. J. King (Manhattan, Kansas).

<sup>22</sup> Hoover, op. cit., 6.

Many Germans settled in western Kansas. In 1876 Germans from Ohio settled in the southeastern part of Ellis County on Big Creek. Others came from Kentucky and settled between Walker and Victoria.<sup>23</sup> This county was one of those in which a large German-Russian settlement was located and they absorbed the German group. Twenty families from Pennsylvania settled the Pawnee River Valley in the southern part of Ness County.<sup>24</sup> In 1878 a colony arrived from Brooklyn, New York, to settle in that county at Riversida and by 1884 it was a progressive colony.<sup>25</sup> The German settlement in Edwards County was probably promoted by the German Emigrant Aid Society which settled the western and southern parts of the county.<sup>26</sup> A large number of Germans located at Natrona in Pratt County; Dodge City in Ford County; Stuttgart in Phillips County; and Atwood in Rawlins County.<sup>27</sup> Other German settlements in central Kansas were made in Lincoln and Salina counties.<sup>28</sup>

The identification of the German-Russian settlements are indicated on the map, Plate I, page 11. Those made in eastern Kansas will be considered first. German-Russians settled along the Cottonwood River in Marion County in 1873,<sup>29</sup> and the following year more settled nearby.<sup>30</sup> The Marion Record reported on September 4, 1878, "About 300 persons are expected in Onadenau this week",

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23 B. M. Dreiling, The Golden Jubilee of the German-Russian Settlements of Ellis and Rush Counties, Kansas, (Hays, 1926), 32.

24 Dodge City Daily Globe, January 22, 1935.

25 Ibid., January 23, 1935.

26 J. A. Walker, "Early History of Edwards County", Kansas Historical Collections, 29:261 (Topeka, 1940).

27 Ruppenthal, op. cit., 516.

28 Kansas City Times, August 24, 1946.

29 Ruppenthal, op. cit., 523.

30 Alberta Pantle, "Settlement of the Krimmer Mennonite Brethren at Onadenau, Marion County", Kansas Historical Collections, 31:265 (Topeka, 1945).

and on November 3, 1876, "One hundred and fifty or 200 more German-Russian are expected in Gnadenau soon". This continued until 1880 when immigration declined sharply. Gnadenau, the village, was eventually disbanded, and the people remained to become a part of the settlement of German-Russians in Liberty township in which Gnadenau was located.<sup>31</sup> Northwest of Marion County in Morris County, a German-Russian colony of fifty families had purchased 21,000 acres of land by 1874.<sup>32</sup> They bought land in Alta township, Harvey County, in the same year.<sup>33</sup> Reference was made to this township previously when it was stated that the French settled there first and later relinquished their land to the German-Russians.<sup>34</sup> Just east of Harvey County in Butler County this group settled in Milton township in 1876.<sup>35</sup> A settlement was made east of Butler County in Woodson County in North township.<sup>36</sup> A settlement was made in northern Kansas at Belleville in Cloud County prior to 1880.<sup>37</sup>

The German-Russians settled in greater numbers in Ellis County in western Kansas than in any other county. The first settlement in this county was made in 1876 near Hog Back, and extended to Catherine, on the Smoky Hill River, and to Victoria. This area appealed to them as it was good land and only \$2.00 and \$2.50 an acre.<sup>38</sup> There were several localities in Ellis that were noteworthy because of large German-Russian settlements. Hays had been established previous to 1876 and received many settlers in

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31 Ibid., 284.

32 Wilson County Citizen, July 17, 1874.

33 Dutchinson Herald, March 1, 1933.

34 Schmidt, op. cit., 495.

35 Stratford, op. cit., 40.

36 "Kansas History in the Press", Kansas Historical Collections, 26:331 (Topeka, 1940).

37 Savage, op. cit., 78.

38 Dreiling, op. cit., 14.

that year<sup>39</sup> as did Munjor, and Catherine.<sup>40</sup> Schoenchen<sup>41</sup> and Peifer<sup>42</sup> were located in the following year. The German-Russians settled at Herzog one-half mile north of the English colony at Victoria in April of 1876. As was previously mentioned the new group absorbed the old, although the name, Victoria, was kept.<sup>43</sup> The settlers never went to the city of Ellis in great numbers, and stayed only temporarily while saving money to buy land.<sup>44</sup> The first colony came to Russell County in 1875 and settled twelve miles south of Russell, and the second and third groups came in 1876 and 1878 respectively.<sup>45</sup> Large groups also came in 1879 and much later in 1898.<sup>46</sup> It was of interest to note that on May 10, 1900, some destitute German-Russians from Mexico arrived in Russell. An investigation of German-Russians in Mexico was conducted and aid given to improve their conditions or bring them to Kansas.<sup>47</sup> Gorham seven miles east of Victoria also had German-Russian settlers.<sup>48</sup>

There were settlements made in central, southwest, and northwest Kansas. A group settled in Barton County southwest of Great Bend at Dundee,<sup>49</sup> and in 1876 another group located west of Holsington.<sup>50</sup> German-Russians settled on Big Timber Creek in Rush

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39 Ibid., 73.

40 Ibid., 15.

41 Ibid., 65.

42 Ibid., 69.

43 Ibid., 47.

44 Ibid., 82.

45 Mabel Ranney Wheeler, "The Germanic Element in the Settlement and Development of Kansas", Master's Thesis MS in the Kansas University Library, (Lawrence, 1920), 60.

46 William Morgenstern, "The Settlement of Bessarabia, Russia, by the Germans", (translated by J. C. Ruppenthal) Kansas Historical Collections, 15:587 (Topeka, 1922).

47 Russell County News, May 16, 1935.

48 Dreiling, op. cit., 87.

49 Hoover, op. cit., 9.

County in 1876 at Liebenthal.<sup>51</sup> Cordia established in 1920 in Fairview township, was an outgrowth of Liebenthal.<sup>52</sup> Loretto in Illinois township was established in 1912 to take care of the overflow from Peifer.<sup>53</sup>

The descendants of the original settlers in Ellis County developed a need for more and cheaper land, consequently they began to seek new locations. Many of these German-Russians who sought this land went to Ness County in 1913 and settled north of Ness City.<sup>54</sup> They settled in great numbers north of Ness County in Trego County. German-Russians settled in Gove County in Quarter and Baker townships in 1886 and Payne and Garfield townships in 1900.<sup>55</sup> They went into Graham County and founded St. Peter in 1894.<sup>56</sup> German-Russians and Norwegians, experienced in the fruit growing business, organized the Alameda Grape Growers Association and purchased 21,000 acres of land in Kearny County northwest of Lakin.<sup>57</sup>

Several other foreign groups came from central and south Europe, one of which was the Austrians. The largest settlement was made in the west part of Ellis County and the eastern part of Trego County.<sup>58</sup> The Austrians came before the German-Russians to Barton County. Albion, Beaver, North Homestead, and Independence townships were fifty per cent Austrian. Cheyenne and Eureka townships were more than fifty per cent, and Walnut town-

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<sup>51</sup> Dreiling, op. cit., 34.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 106.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., 96.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., 105.

<sup>55</sup> Harrington, op. cit., n. p.

<sup>56</sup> Dreiling, op. cit., 89.

<sup>57</sup> Weldron, op. cit., 96.

<sup>58</sup> Ruppenthal, op. cit., 529.

ship was seventy-five per cent Austrian.<sup>59</sup> In Ellsworth County east of Barton County there were Austrians near the town of Kenopolis.<sup>60</sup>

One Bulgarian settlement was revealed in this study. The Hutchinson News stated "Six families of Bulgarian colonists were in Hutchinson last night on their way to southwest Kansas where they will settle. This is believed to be the forerunner of a big colony in Haskell County. The colony will be near Sublette".<sup>61</sup>

The Hungarians settled in largest numbers in Nowlin County, where they located in Herndon township on Beaver Creek in 1878, and provided a nucleus for the settlement.<sup>62</sup> Hungarians also settled in central Kansas in Ellis County at Yocemento where a cement plant was established and the men employed were mostly Hungarians.<sup>63</sup> Another settlement was made in southern Kansas in Harper County in Stehrville township south of Bluff City.<sup>64</sup>

The Polish group was found in three counties in Kansas. They were near Pawnee Rock in Liberty township, Barton County;<sup>65</sup> in Phillips County in Crystal township;<sup>66</sup> and in Republic County in the northeastern part of Freedom township in 1870, whence they had come from St. Joseph, Missouri, and later direct from Poland.<sup>67</sup>

The largest group from central Europe was the Bohemian group,

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<sup>59</sup> Hoover, op. cit., 12.

<sup>60</sup> Kansas City Times, August 24, 1946.

<sup>61</sup> Hutchinson News Herald taken from The Earth, June 1913 (Chicago), 2.

<sup>62</sup> Some Early History of the Roman Catholic Settlements and Parishes of Northwest Kansas, (1913) Souvenir Booklet, 11.

<sup>63</sup> Drilling, op. cit., 104.

<sup>64</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 76.

<sup>65</sup> Hoover, op. cit., 14.

<sup>66</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 80.

<sup>67</sup> Smith, op. cit., 112.



and they settled all over the state. In 1874 the first Bohemian filed claim on Kansas land near Wilson in Ellsworth County, with the intention of starting a Bohemian settlement.<sup>68</sup> He advertised successfully and the Bohemians entered the county. The largest group arrived and settled in all directions from Wilson township in 1876. In this year they settled Palacky, Noble, and Columbia townships which became the leading townships for Bohemian settlement. This colony spread into Russell County to Dorrance and into Lincoln County to Sylvan Grove and Lucas.<sup>69</sup> Settlements were made in Ottawa County in Sheridan and Fountain townships.<sup>70</sup> Bohemians spread west of Ellsworth County into northeast Barton County where they settled Cleveland township,<sup>71</sup> and to Rush County where they settled in Banner and Garfield townships.<sup>72</sup>

Settlements were made in the southern and eastern parts of Kansas in Kingman, Harper, and Marion counties. In 1882 the first settlers settled in the Reida Bohemian community in the southern part of Kingman and the northern part of Harper counties.<sup>73</sup> The first families settled in the Bohemian community of Pilsen in Marion County in 1874<sup>74</sup> and in the '80's a group settled near Florence in this county.<sup>75</sup>

Bohemian immigrants settled in the northern part of Kansas in Osborne County, Delhi township, where they had moved from Wilson township in Ellsworth County. The settlement came to extend

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68 Francis J. Swehla, "Bohemians in Central Kansas", Kansas Historical Collections, 13:474 (Topeka, 1914).

69 Ibid., 478.

70 Carruth, op. cit., 79.

71 Hoover, op. cit., 14.

72 Carruth, op. cit., 81.

73 Topeka Capital, September 25, 1938.

74 Marion Record, September 16, 1937.

northeast from Wilson township, Ellsworth County, to the southeastern corner of Osborne County.<sup>76</sup> The Bohemians settled Rawlins County in 1880 and the settlement grew to include Burntwood, Beaver, Driftwood, and Celea townships.<sup>77</sup> The Bohemians arrived in Decatur County in the spring of 1873 where they settled in the region of Big Timber Creek.<sup>78</sup> The Bohemian settlement in Republic County was divided into two parts. One was made in Fairview and Rose Creek townships with Menden as the center, and the other in Jefferson and Richland townships with Cuba as the center. The first settlements in both communities were made in 1870.<sup>79</sup> Many Bohemian settlements were made in the northern tier of counties, one of which was in Washington County in Little Blue township.<sup>80</sup> They settled Marshall County and like Republic County made two separate settlements. The one was west of Marysville and south of Bremen in Logan and Walnut townships, and the other was south of Waterville and Blue Rapids and southwest of Irving chiefly on Game Fork Creek.<sup>81</sup>

The Italians were another group that came from Southern Europe to Kansas. The Frontenac Press on September 19, 1941, stated "The Vittoria Societa Italiana di Mutuo Soccorso celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding at Frontenac. This society began in 1891 when a group of Italian immigrants met in Frontenac!"<sup>82</sup> Italians also settled in Grant township of Craw-

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76 Swehla, op. cit., 497.

77 Waldron, op. cit., 43.

78 Newspaper clipping, April 17, 1873, Decatur County Clippings, 1:65 Kansas State Historical Society Library, Topeka.

79 Smith, op. cit., 111.

80 Carruth, op. cit., 82.

81 Porter, op. cit., 212.

82 Frontenac Press, September 19, 1941.

ford County and scattered throughout the whole county.<sup>83</sup> Italians settled in Cherokee County north of Crawford and also, like in Crawford mostly in the mining districts. An Italian center, Chicopee, was settled in 1885 by Sicilians,<sup>84</sup> and another center in which they settled was Weir City.<sup>85</sup> Italians were found in other localities in other counties: Osage County; Kansas City in Wyandotte County; Wichita in Sedgwick County; and Kanopolis in Ellsworth County.

The last group to be considered from Central and Eastern Europe was the Yugo-slavs. "During the 1870's and 1880's most of the Yugo-slavs headed for northern Michigan and Minnesota to work... in dangerous copper and iron mines. In subsequent decades immigrants heading for Cleveland or Chicago stopped instead in Pittsburgh or in the Pennsylvania anthracite region or in the soft coal towns of West Virginia or southern Ohio. Or they went into the coal pits of Illinois and Kansas..."<sup>86</sup> They went to three counties in Kansas, Wyandotte, Crawford, and Cherokee.<sup>87</sup> The foreign groups that came to Kansas from Central and Eastern Europe are located as to place of settlement in the map, Plate I, page 11.

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<sup>83</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 75.

<sup>84</sup> Waldron, op. cit., 99.

<sup>85</sup> Carruth, op. cit., 74.

<sup>86</sup> Louis Adamie, A Nation of Nations (New York, 1944), 240.

<sup>87</sup> William A. White, "Address of the President", October 18, 1938, Kansas Historical Collections, 25:78 (Topeka, 1939).

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The purpose of this study has been to identify the foreign immigrant groups in Kansas, for this is believed to be essential in determining the cultural heritage of Kansas. The findings of this thesis may provide a basis for further cultural study of individual foreign groups or a thorough study of the cultural heritage of the entire state.

The nature of the identification has been to locate the place of foreign origin and the place of Kansas settlement of foreign groups that have entered Kansas. Very careful attention was given the place of foreign origin, as it is impossible to know the elements that a people contribute to a culture unless it is known what foreign elements they possessed. The place of origin served as an index to the cultural characteristics of the groups.

The study identified twenty-one national groups which became a part of the assimilated population of Kansas. Some of the elements became more dominant because they were present in greater numbers. The specific information which was given in the paper and on the map, Plate I, page 11, established general areas in which certain foreign groups were found. The foreign population was most dense in the eastern half of the state as is shown in Plate II, page 13.

The groups from Northern Europe were the Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes. The Swedes, the most numerous group from that part of

Europe, settled in the valleys of the Smoky Hill, the Neosho, the Republican, and the Blue Rivers. The outstanding Danish settlement was found in Lincoln County. The Norwegians were scattered throughout the state with small settlements particularly in Cloud, Clay, Jewell, Brown, and Republic counties.

The immigrants from Western Europe included English, Welsh, Scotch, Irish, French, Swiss, and Hollanders. Their leading settlements were the English in Clay County; the Welsh in Riley and Lyon counties; the Scotch in Republic and Dickinson; the Irish in Dickinson and Anderson counties; the French in Doniphan, Leavenworth, and Marshall counties; with the Swiss and Hollanders scattered throughout the state in small settlements.

The immigrants from Central and Eastern Europe included Germans, German-Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Austrians, Bulgarians, Bohemians, Italians, and Yugo-slavs. The Germans settled in all counties. The German-Russians settled primarily in Ellis, Trego, Russell, Marion, Harvey, and Reno counties. The Bohemians were found particularly in Ellsworth, Marshall, and Republic counties. The Italians and Yugo-slavs settled in Cherokee and Crawford counties. The Austrians went to Trego and Ellis counties; the Bulgarians to Haskell County; and the Poles to Barton, Republic, and Phillips counties.

Foreign groups have entered Kansas which have not been included in this study. They were minor groups and small in number, but each possessed some element which they contributed to the total Kansas population. One of such groups were the Syrians. There have been many Syrians settled in middlewestern Kansas, for instance, Torrance in Cowley County had a Syrian settlement. The largest settlement was made by Syrians in Wichita in Sedgwick

County.<sup>1</sup> They, as all minor groups, have contributed some elements to Kansas culture.

Another purpose of this thesis has been to demonstrate the cosmopolitan character of Kansas. This study has shown that the population of Kansas has become cosmopolitan because of the foreign immigrant groups that settled there. A cosmopolitan population, such as Kansas has acquired, is considered to be beneficial to its heritage. In this cosmopolitan population, the cultural elements of each group have either been rejected or adopted by the others.

In conclusion, then, the main purpose of this thesis has been to identify foreign immigrant groups in Kansas. It is hoped that the further and ultimate use of the study will lead to an analysis of the cultural heritage of the people of Kansas.

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1 Topeka State Journal, June 2, 1908.

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